

Dear Committee Members,

The Bee population and industry has impact across the agricultural sector not in terms of generating huge employment figures but it's input into increased production of both food and cash crops.

Apart from that it also has potential to develop as cottage industry.

From an industry that had 2000 farmers, exporting over 100 tones to Austria and 100 tonnage domestically in 1993 has decreased to less than 500 farmers and 40 tonnage annually.

Hence, all tariff on specialised materials and equipment should be reduced to zero percent.

Further, those companies and business involved in manufacturing hive materials, wax foundation etc should also be allowed tax deductions on their expenses and also 100 percent depreciation on plant and machinery.

Please see background information below.

Cheers,

Wilson Thompson

President

Farmers and Settlers Association Inc

Might be interested in this issue. PNG has problem with Asian Bees that brought in Varroa Mite that affected European Bee population and production.

The Farmers and Settlers Association Inc is concerned that the issue raised here could affect the already depressed bee population and also might have impact on production and productivity of food and agricultural cash crops in the country.

We are concerned that the World Bank reported in November last year that production and export figures from the tree crops sector has decreased and some are lowest in the ten years period.

Apart from other factors that affects production, the role of bee in pollination process must be acknowledged and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock and National Agriculture Research Institute must immediately review their research in this area.

We commend NARI that has done preliminary studies, it should expand in light of decreased crop production and of further impact of Varroa mite and other diseases that might affect the beekeeping and honey processing industry in the country.

FYI and action if necessary.

Wilson Thompson

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